

2002 Legislative Action on Major Issues

Agriculture/Natural Resources

- Created a comprehensive plant pest management law, including provisions for quarantine to keep exotic pests out of the state. (HB 448)
- Extended financial protection, similar to protections of the bonded warehouse law and commodity dealer law, to designated Idaho seed growers, including those raising seed crops under bailment contracts. (HB 522)
- Updated mandatory calfhood brucellosis vaccination requirements for female cattle and imposed and clarified restrictions regarding unvaccinated cattle that enter Idaho. (HB 523aa,aa)
- Authorized the Department of Agriculture to license and inspect all commercial livestock truck washing facilities, adding to the department's responsibilities relating to animal disease control. All other truck washing facilities will remain under the purview of the Department of Environmental Quality. (HB 529aa)
- Created a Pesticide Management Commission with designated responsibilities including the administration of funds for evaluations, studies and investigations regarding pesticides and pest management programs. (HB 556)
- Amended existing law relating to bonded warehouses and commodity dealers, expanding the scope of financial protections in the event of a facility failure. (HB 644 and HB 645)
- Established criteria for initial and repeat penalties levied by the Department of Agriculture for violating odor management standards, provided criteria relating to the construction of waste management systems and created an Agriculture Odor Management Fund for research and pilot projects. (HB 726)
- Created a carbon sequestration committee to identify and recommend policies and programs dealing with carbon trading for agricultural lands that will enhance the ability of landowners to offset carbon emissions from other sectors. (SB 1379aaH)
- Authorized the Board of Examiners to issue deficiency warrants of up to \$5 million per year for disease control and eradication in the event the director of the Department of Agriculture declares an emergency relating to livestock disease, provided costs exceed appropriated funds or other available funding. (SB 1380)

Banking and Finance

- Authorized homeowners' associations to file liens against properties for unpaid assessments relating to the maintenance of common areas. (SB 1326aaH)
- Established the framework for Individual Development Accounts to help Idaho's working, lower-income families with buying a first home, a college education or a small business, using federal funding and incentives and charitable initiatives. (HB 671)

Education, Higher

- Authorized the University of Idaho and Idaho State University to enter into agreements with the Idaho State Building Authority to finance construction of the Idaho Place. In addition to facilities for programs of both universities, there will be shared space in the auditorium and conference rooms. Idaho Place will be located in Boise near the Idaho Water Center on Front Street. (HCR 60)

Major Issues (continued)

Education, Public Schools

- Allowed funds from the School Safety and Health Revolving Loan and Grant Fund to be used for grants for a bond sale as well as a school plant facilities levy, and revised the sunset date to June 30, 2003. (SB 1431aa)
- Amended existing law to govern procedure for identification of a serious safety hazard in a school building. A specific response to such hazard is required within a specified time, and if action is not taken, authority to deny occupancy may be exercised. (SB1434aaH)
- Established a subsidy program for school districts that approve a bond levy after September 15, 2002. The subsidy will be based on the ability of the school district to bond for school facilities measured by a value index that is defined by the law. Districts will receive subsidies ranging from 10% to 100% of the interest cost, with poorer districts receiving the relatively larger subsidies. (SB 1474aaH)
- Authorized refunding of school bonds issued after March 1, 1999, to allow for refinancing of high-interest outstanding bonds in order to achieve lower rates. (SB 1424)
- Stated the policy of Idaho to preserve and protect native languages. A teacher of American Indian languages may be authorized to teach in Idaho schools without an academic degree or teacher's certificate. (SB 1411)
- Extended prohibition of hazing at the college and university level to such activities at any school level and applied it to potential members of a group or organization as well as an athletic team. (HB 594)
- Created the Idaho Digital Learning Academy to be governed by a board of directors who will supervise the design, development and accreditation of courses. All school districts will have the opportunity to enroll students for remediation and credit recovery, gifted options, and enrollment in higher education options. (HB 534)

Government Procedures

- Repealed Idaho's term limit law for federal, statewide elected executive officials, legislators, school district trustees and city and county elected officials. (HB 425)
- Clarified that a governmental agency that levies impact fees may not charge developers more than their proportionate share for system improvements as defined by the act; clarified that governmental agencies must consider all tax and user fee revenue generated by a developer and used by the agency for system improvements when calculating development impact fees. (HB 607aa,aaS)
- Authorized the Division of Veterans Services to enter into contracts, accept donations and funds, and operate and maintain a veterans cemetery. (HB 428)
- Authorized the Parks and Recreation Board to expend moneys and enter into leases or agreements with local governments for the operation and maintenance of state outdoor recreational areas and facilities. (SB 1390aa,aa)
- Added language recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics to the Vital Statistics Act to allow for use of the accepted medical technology to more accurately assess the length of the gestation of a stillborn fetus. (SB 1329)
- Required that those performing farm labor contracting activities in Idaho be licensed by the state Department of Labor, pay an annual licensing fee, post a surety bond to cover unpaid wages, carry auto insurance for all vehicles used in the farm labor contractor's business, carry worker's

Major Issues (continued)

compensation coverage for all employees and provide all employees, when hired, full disclosure about the rate of pay, benefits to be furnished and all expenses that may be deducted from wages. (SB 1289aa)

- Extended unemployment insurance coverage to employees of Indian tribes and tribal units and made Idaho's two taxing options, experience rated and cost reimbursement, available to Indian tribes. All tribes in Idaho are already participating in the unemployment insurance program, having voluntarily elected to do so. (SB 1290)
- Authorized the Fish and Game Commission to enter into agreements with cities, counties, recreation districts or other political subdivisions for the lease of lands or waters to provide taxpayers and residents recreational opportunities. (SB 1389aa)
- Changed the way annexations are handled by cities to give affected citizens more information and expanded opportunities to be heard regarding annexation and zoning decisions and to allow landowners an opportunity to consent to or oppose significant annexations. (SB 1391aa,aaH)
- Allowed certain public employees, despite being related to a subsequently elected local government official, to retain their positions and receive compensation and benefits. (SB 1422)
- Required that a claim of lien be personally delivered or mailed to the owner of real property within a certain time, and that general contractors disclose certain information to owners and purchasers of residential property. (SB 1454)
- Revised definitions regarding agricultural commodity liens, provided for lien attachments, extended the period of certain liens, deleted reference to certain criteria pursuant to which a lien can be extended, extended the period for filing certain liens and provided that certain liens shall continue for a year. (SB 1458aa)
- Froze salaries at the January 2002 level for the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state controller, attorney general, state treasurer and superintendent of public instruction until January 2007. (SB 1529)
- Required race tracks that have a handle of over \$5 million annually to have not less than eight races per day. Tracks with a total handle from both live and simulcast races of \$5 million or less during the last calendar year of operation are to have no fewer than six races daily. (HB 423)
- Deleted language regarding purchase of the guaranteed portion of a United States Small Business Loan, as it relates to the investment of idle moneys in the state treasury, and provided that all principal and interest payments on securities held in money market portfolios are payable to security holders in United States dollars. (HB 456)
- Expanded the definition of family member in the Idaho College Savings Program to include first cousins, revised definitions to comply with federal law and eliminated the penalty to be assessed against nonqualified withdrawals. (HB 464)
- Allowed public employers who employ personnel in civil service positions to rehire employees who have voluntarily terminated employment, without requiring the employee to repeat the civil service examination if certain conditions are met. (HB 469aa)
- Established a Joint Millennium Fund Committee to consider requests for funding and to make recommendations annually to the Legislature for use of Idaho's share of tobacco settlement moneys held in the Idaho Millennium Income Fund. (HB 486aaS)

Major Issues (continued)

- Brought election laws governing municipal elections into greater conformity with laws governing state and county elections, including the conduct of an election by the city clerk, the declaration and petition of candidacy, notice and deadlines governing elections, and conditions governing when a runoff election is held. (HB 503)
- Provided a stay of civil proceedings when National Guard members are called into state active duty. (HB 518)
- Brought the Idaho State Council on Developmental Disabilities Act into compliance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106-402). This federal act authorizes councils and their activities and also updates language regarding developmental disabilities to be consistent with current practice and terminology. (HB 557)
- Provided equal income benefits for death to widows and widowers under Idaho's Worker's Compensation law. (HB 599aa)
- Provided procedures in general and city elections for mail-in absentee ballots and for in-person absentee voting. Provided that counties in which ballots are counted at a central location, absentee ballots received on election day may, at the discretion of the county clerk, be retained in a secure place and be added to the precinct returns at the time of ballot tabulation. (HB 612)
- Established a Democracy Fund in the office of the Secretary of State to receive federal funds that may soon be available. Current federal legislation will provide funding to the states for the purpose of improving election systems. (HB 613)
- Clarified the conditions under which a war veteran is entitled to a five-point preference on civil service examinations. (HB 616)
- Allowed those providing repair services to aircraft to have a lien for services without retaining possession of an aircraft, and outlined the requirements for a possessory lien for services that conform to Federal Aviation Administration requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations. (HB 634aa)
- Extended a requirement in Idaho Code that the identity of those paying for a persuasive poll be disclosed in elections for mayor and councilman in cities of 16,000 or more population. (HB 648)
- Required urban renewal agencies to comply with Idaho's open meeting, public records, ethics in government, financial reporting and competitive bidding provisions of Idaho Code. (HB 653)
- Amended the Idaho Business and Industrial Development Corporation Act to: provide that business and industrial development corporations are not limited to meeting the financing and management assistance needs of firms located only in Idaho; limit uses to which such corporations may apply public moneys; provide that they may enter into management assistance contracts; remove the limitation that they hold control of corporations with offices located only in Idaho; and remove the requirement that a hearing be held prior to issuance of certain orders or imposition of civil penalty by the director of the Department of Finance. (HB 660)
- Clarified responsibility for marking under-ground facilities and notification requirements; revised penalties; provided for a warning for damage to marked and located underground facilities and for failure to notify the owner of underground facilities prior to excavation; authorized a private cause of action for penalties under certain conditions; and allowed for treble damages in certain instances. (HB 678aa)

Major Issues (continued)

- Revised reporting deadlines for all political committees supporting or opposing ballot measures, and required a statement of all contributions received and all expenditures or encumbrances made by or on behalf of the measure or any candidate or made by or against the measure or any candidate. (HB 707)
- Provided library districts with bonding authority in order to fund the remodeling, repairing and quipping of existing library buildings. (HB 688)
- Increased access by the public to public meetings by allowing meetings to be conducted via telephone or video conferencing technology. (SB 1369)

Health and Safety/Insurance

- Provided for scholarships to Idaho institutions of higher education and technical schools for dependents of full-time or part-time peace officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians or first responders (public safety officers) employed or volunteering in Idaho who were killed or disabled in the line of duty. (SB 1356aa,aa)
- Prohibited insurers from using an individual's credit rating or history as the primary basis for charging higher premiums or canceling or declining a property or casualty insurance policy. (SB 1408)
- Prohibited insurers from disclosing non-public personal information contrary to the provisions of the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (PL 106-102). (HB 408)
- Removed sunset provisions applicable to index rate bands for health benefit plans. These rate bands ensure that health benefit plan premium rates charged to small employers will not vary by more than 50 percent from the index rate. Rate bands will be reviewed, and a report to legislative committees regarding retention of index rate bands is to be made in 2004. (HB 505aa,aaS)
- Revised the Idaho Building Code Act with the adoption of the 2000 International Building Code and by incorporating the accessibility guidelines of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act. (HB 586aaS)
- Ensured funding for inspections of school facilities and clarified when inspections of municipal buildings may take place. (HB 590aa)
- Created a comprehensive trauma registry to collect information about injury and medical outcome for use in guiding policy decisions, legislation and improvement of the emergency response system. (SB 1319)
- Amended the Idaho Anatomical Gift Act to: ensure that the intention of a donor is given with adequate knowledge to constitute an informed consent; place limitations on coroners who could benefit financially from a donation; and provide standards to govern who may remove a body part. (HB 702)
- Extended the Rural Health Care Access Grant program, which serves medically underserved areas, to include provision of oral health care within the definition of primary care. (HB 553)
- Included children's therapeutic outdoor programs in child care program licensure requirements. Such programs involve 24-hour care and are often located in isolated areas. Licensure will allow development of safety and health standards and for inspections of the facilities. (SB 1318)

Judiciary

- Required a fingerprint-based criminal history check for all persons seeking admission to the practice of the law in the state of Idaho. (SB 1388)

Major Issues (continued)

- Provided that active or senior magistrate judges may be assigned to temporary service on the Idaho Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. (HB 499)
- Required that small claims actions be brought in the county where the defendant resides or the county where the cause of action arose. (HB 501)
- Created the Idaho State Bar Lawyer Assistance Program; provided that records and proceedings are not subject to subpoena or discovery and are not admissible as evidence; and made records of the program exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act. (SB 1370)
- Clarified which expenses and services should be compensated in guardianship and conservatorship proceedings and that attorney's fees and costs, if reasonable, are to be compensated from the estate if the proceedings were brought or defended in good faith; or if the estate is inadequate, the fees and costs may be apportioned as the court deems reasonable. (SB 1313)
- Clarified that the visitor and the guardian ad litem for disabled persons must be different people and must be independent, at least to the extent of not being members or employees of the same entity, such as a law firm. (SB 1315)
- Streamlined jury selection and improved procedures for juror service by giving administrative judges discretion to extend the period of exclusion from jury service and creating a new procedure for selecting additional jurors in protracted cases. (HB 497)
- Established criteria and qualifications for parenting coordinators in divorce cases and authorized courts to appoint coordinators to assist parents in collaborative dispute resolution for the best interest of the children. (HB 541)
- Redefined "disability" as related to an individual in child custody proceedings and guaranteed protections for a disabled person to parent, to adopt and to participate in decisions regarding his/her child, including the right to present information concerning adaptive equipment and supportive services that aid the individual in parenting. (HB 579aa)
- Provided that bicycling, running, playing on playground equipment, skateboarding and athletic competition are included in the definition of "recreational purposes" for the limitation of legal liability of landowners. (HB 601)
- Provided a procedure to resolve civil lawsuits involving damages sought of \$25,000 or less through the use of independent case evaluations by impartial evaluators. (HB 627)

Justice, Criminal

- Required coroners to obtain blood samples from pedestrians, motor vehicle operators and vessel operators who have died in accidents involving motor vehicles or vessels, and to deliver the blood samples to the director of the Idaho State Police or his designee. (HB 402)
- Prohibited adulteration of drugs held for sale or distribution and prohibited health care providers from administering or dispensing drugs they know have been adulterated. (HB 483)
- Exempted records relating to buildings, structures or facilities, including vulnerability assessments, evacuation routes and emergency planning documents, from public disclosure when the disclosure of those documents would present a threat to public safety. (HB 560)

Major Issues (continued)

- Made theft or transportation of anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container a felony, and held farmers and dealers harmless from any liability that may result from such illegal activity. (HB 564aa)
- Increased the penalties for vehicular manslaughter involving alcohol, drugs or other intoxicants. (HB 620aa)
- Prohibited excessive pricing of fuel, food, pharmaceuticals and water for human consumption following a disaster or a declared state of national emergency. (SB 1357 and HB 731aa)
- Made it a crime for persons to enter or attempt to enter an airplane or sterile area of an airport while willfully and intentionally carrying weapons. (SB 1325aa,aaH)
- Made it a felony for anyone to attack or damage an agricultural research facility with the intent to damage or hinder agricultural research or experimentation and provided for restitution. (SB 1332)
- Extended the crimes of murder, manslaughter and aggravated battery to include acts against the fetus or embryo of a pregnant woman, and specified that the law does not apply to medical treatment and lawful abortion. (SB 1344 and SB 1519)
- Prohibited support of terrorists and acts of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction, biological weapons and chemical weapons. The law is not limited by a statute of limitations and any murder that occurs as the result of an act of terrorism shall be classified as murder in the first degree. (SB 1348)
- Prohibited the unlawful interception of electronic communications and the disclosure of information obtained through lawful interception, where the disclosure is made with the intent of obstructing an investigation. (SB 1349aa)
- Extended the law providing for domestic violence protection orders to adults in dating relationships. (SB 1351aa)
- Prohibited the use of scanning devices and reencoders and made it a felony offense when used to capture information from a victim's financial transaction. (SB 1365)
- Extended enhanced penalties for repeat underage offenders convicted of driving under the influence to additional types of DUI. (SB 1496)

Justice, Juvenile

- Required the parents, legal guardians or custodians of a juvenile to pay costs associated with community programs ordered by the court in connection with the sentencing of the juvenile. (HB 498)
- Provided that a court, in its discretion, may determine whether a background report of a juvenile is necessary prior to sentencing of the juvenile. (HB 502)
- Authorized the Department of Juvenile Corrections to retain legal custody of juveniles through their 19th birthday, unless retained custody is necessary to address competency development, accountability and community protection, in which case legal custody may be retained until the juvenile reaches 21 years of age. (SB 1460)

Major Issues (continued)

Natural Resources

- Expedited the adjudication process in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) by reducing the period for filing responses to objections from 120 days to 60 days and changing the time for a hearing on unobjected parts of the report of the director of the Department of Water Resources from 60 days following the expiration for filing responses to objections, to 60 days following the expiration for filing objections. (HB 415 and HB 416)
- Extended the prohibition against the use, possession, take or transport of live minnows, fish or the young of any fish for bait or release to the waters of the Kootenai River. (HB 419)
- Removed a civil penalty provision that authorized the Department of Agriculture to assess a civil penalty of \$5000 per day for each day of a continuing violation of laws relating to domestic cervidae. (HB 524)
- Provided that the rental or leasing of a water right allowed under existing law, as well as the nonuse of a water right due to certain circumstances over which the water right owner has no control, shall constitute a defense against a claim that the water right has been forfeited. (HB 569)
- Created a number of new youth licenses for hunting and fishing including the Youth Small Game License, which will allow residents who are ten and eleven years of age to hunt small game with a licensed adult, and the Nonresident Junior Mentored Hunting License, which will allow a nonresident youth to hunt with an Idaho licensed adult. (HB 604)
- Authorized the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to release up to 427,000 acre feet of water from its projects during 2002, 2003 and 2004 for minimum stream flow purposes. The three-year extension matches the three-year period of the supplemental biological opinion issued for the bureau's Upper Snake River projects by the National Marine Fisheries Service on January 24, 2002, and is subject to legislative repeal in the event the supplemental biological opinion is modified or set aside. (HB 666)
- Extended the compensation provisions for livestock depredation caused by black bears or mountain lions to goats. (SB 1333)
- Extended the authorization of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to work with the Wolf Oversight Committee in the development and implementation of the Wolf Management Plan through December 31, 2003. (SB 1499)
- Approved the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Management Plan, urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to proceed with delisting as endangered species, allowing the state of Idaho to assume responsibility for management provided adequate and continuous federal funding is provided. (HCR 62)
- Approved the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, a requisite step in the delisting of wolves as endangered species and the transfer of wolf management responsibilities to the state from the federal government. (SCR 134)
- Lowered the fees for disposal of certain hazardous waste, PCBs and hazardous debris at the commercial hazardous waste disposal facility in Idaho. (HB 735)
- Ratified the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the Little Salmon River Basin as adopted by the Idaho Water Resource Board on October 19, 2001. (HB 538)

Major Issues (continued)

Professions

- Allowed retail and wholesale insurance agents to charge a fee for their services. (SB 1324)
- Revised the Idaho Accountancy Act to provide a regulatory framework for the practice of accountancy that recognizes reciprocal licenses. (HB 485)
- Repealed law requiring environmental health specialists to be licensed and registered with the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses. (HB 552aaS)

Public Utilities/Telephone Regulation

- Imposed certain surcharges on customers of mobile wireless carriers with a place of primary use in Idaho — the residential street address or primary business street address in Idaho where the customer's use of the wireless service primarily occurs. (SB 1477)

Taxation

- Clarified the existing disallowance of deductions for net operating losses and capital losses incurred in activities not taxable in Idaho. Also provided that the limitation applies to personal investment losses that are not part of a trade or business as defined by the Internal Revenue Code. (HB 440)
- Added Kinderhaven to the list of charitable contributions for which a taxpayer can claim an income tax credit. Kinderhaven provides short-term shelter for children under the age of 12 and long-term foster care for 13 to 18 year-old girls. (HB 663)
- Exempted from the sales or use tax the sale, purchase or use of livestock when sold at a livestock market. (HB 481)
- Added the Family Service Alliance of Southeast Idaho to the list of health related entities that are exempted from the payment of the sales or use tax. (HB 482)
- Exempted from the sales or use tax purchases by qualifying senior citizen centers. (HB 494)
- Exempted sales to or purchases by a volunteer fire department or licensed emergency medical service agency from sales tax. (HB 581aa)
- Imposed the legal incidence of motor fuels taxes upon the motor fuel distributor who first receives the fuel in Idaho, effective retroactively to July 1, 1996. (HB 732)
- Provided that five acres or less of land classified as actively devoted to agriculture for property tax purposes must be contiguous and specified that no area of land is to be considered not contiguous solely by reason of a roadway or other right-of-way. (HB 487aa)
- Provided a partial property tax exemption for parcels of land in a rural home site development plat meeting certain conditions and if the land is in a county of less than 100,000 population. (HB 488aaS)
- Clarified the property tax exempt status of rental property leased to low-income individuals when the property is owned and operated by charitable nonprofit organizations that meet strict qualifications of ownership, management and utilization. (HB 652)
- Exempted from personal property taxation agricultural machinery and equipment used in the production of or caring for nursery stock. (HB 679)

Major Issues (continued)

Transportation

- Authorized a third design, the cutthroat trout, for the Idaho wildlife special license plate program and designated a portion of the revenues for the Department of Parks and Recreation to use for the construction and maintenance of non-motorized boating access facilities for anglers; and designated portions of the elk wildlife special plate fee for the Department of Fish and Game's wildlife disease laboratory program and for the Department of Agriculture's livestock disease control fund. (SB 1359aaH, aaH)
- Created an Appaloosa special license plate program with the revenues being deposited to the Appaloosa Horse Club to be used exclusively for funding youth horse programs within the state of Idaho. (HB 477)
- Created a Corvette special license plate program with the revenues being deposited to the Valley Corvettes charitable support fund to be used exclusively for supporting charitable activities within the state of Idaho. (SB 1442aa)
- Created an Idaho peace officers memorial special license plate program, revenues to be deposited to the Idaho Peace Officers Memorial Fund to be used exclusively for the Idaho law enforcement memorial and for families of peace officers killed in the line of duty. Provided for discontinuance of specified special license plate programs if after a three-year introductory period, the number of plates issued in both years of any consecutive two-year period falls below 1,000. (SB 1361)
- Allowed students who are at least 14 but not more than 16 years of age to obtain restricted school attendance driving permits if they meet designated criteria. Permits will be granted only to students who attend school in a district with less than 150 people and with no school bus service. (HB 610aa,aaS)
- Made it an infraction for any person to fail to obtain a motorcycle "M" endorsement prior to operating a motorcycle on an Idaho highway. (HB 597aaS)
- Gave those required to register for the federal Selective Service an opportunity to fulfill registration requirements in conjunction with application for a driver's license, instruction permit or an identification card, with such registration information to be transmitted by the Idaho Transportation Department to the Selective Service System. (HB 611)
- Provided that persons who operate an electric personal assistive mobility device are considered to be pedestrians and may operate such devices upon a sidewalk; and provided that a political subdivision having jurisdiction over sidewalks may, by ordinance or by traffic control device, regulate the time, place and manner of the operation of electric personal assistive mobility devices. (HB 550aaS)
- Established within the Division of Veterans Services a voucher system for transportation services for wheelchair-bound veterans and provided funding. (SB 1462aa and HB 739)
- Allowed for a reduction in motor vehicle casualty insurance premiums for insured motor vehicle operators who are 65 years of age or older who have completed a self-instructed motor vehicle accident prevention course, or any such course which does not provide for actual classroom or field driving instruction. (SB 1444)
- Made it unlawful for any person to sell or transfer a vehicle without giving prior written notice to the purchaser or transferee, if the person knows or should reasonably know, that any airbag or the airbag system is inoperable. (HB 643aa)

Major Issues (continued)

- Allowed for the establishment of highway district commissioner salaries through the public budget process similar to the procedures counties use to establish elected officials' salaries. (HB 608aa)
- Provided for a highway district commissioner election cycle with one commissioner elected every three years and with none elected the fourth year. (SB 1400)
- Exempted certain vehicles, including off-road motorcycles, all trailers and certain vessels, from sales tax if purchased in Idaho by nonresidents for use outside the state. (HB 513)

Welfare Reform

- Strengthened the authority of the Department of Health and Welfare to recapture medical assistance when there is a claim against a third party that covers the costs and allowed action to recover payments. (SB 1472aa,aa)
- Limited the ability to become eligible for medical assistance by the purchase of an annuity to accomplish a transfer of assets to a spouse. (SB 1336aa)
- Added legislative intent regarding the Children's Health Insurance Program to the Department of Health and Welfare appropriation limiting program expenditures, limiting payment for adult dental services to emergency services only and continuing the Utilization Management pilot project in Region II without extending the program and with a report to be presented to JFAC in the fall. (SB 1490)

Bills Vetoed by the Governor

- **HB 425** – Repealed Sections 34-907, 50-478 and 33-443, Idaho Code, which would have limited ballot access to incumbents seeking statewide, legislative, and local offices, including county commissioner, clerk, treasurer, assessor, coroner, prosecutor and sheriff, as well as local school board members and some city officeholders. **(Overridden by two-thirds vote of both houses.)**
- **HB 555** – Updated Idaho's Soil Conservation Commission and Soil Conservation District statutes to define the state's conservation policies and the implementation of conservation improvements, projects and programs.
- **HB 684** – Established the Idaho Venture Investment Fund to improve access to capital resources, create tax credits and allow a guaranteed rate of return to venture capital investors.

Legislative Council Interim Study Committees

No new interim committees were authorized during the 2002 legislative session; however, three committees authorized by the Legislature in 2001 will continue for a second year:

- A two-year committee to study electric utility restructuring.
- A two-year committee to study natural resource issues.
- A two-year committee to study electronic commerce and related technology.